areas include launch of Horticulture Mission, undertaking activities with a mission approach for enhancing productivity and quality of cotton, oilseeds, pulses and coarse grains.

The strategies formulated by the Government for making the agriculture sector more vibrant and dynamic so as to increase its production and productivity include (i) enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure; (ii) ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs; (iii) promoting farmer friendly, demand driven agriculture extension system; (iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture/activities; (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain; (vi) optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rainfed farming system; (vii) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and (viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers.

National Horticulture Mission in Himachal Pradesh

†306. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a National Horticulture Mission with a view to promote horticulture in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States proposed to be given priority in this regard;

(d) whether any special project has been prepared/proposed under the Mission in Himachal Pradesh keeping in view the geographical and environmental conditions of the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "National Horticulture Mission (NHM)" during the Tenth Plan with effect from 2005-06, with a total put lay of Rs. 2300.00 crore, for holistic development of horticulture sector, duly ensuring end to end approach having backward and forward linkages, covering production, post harvest management and marketing, with the active participation of all the stake-holders. The thrust of the Mission is to promote an area based regionally differentiated cluster approach for development of horticultural crops, having comparative advantage.

(c) All the States and Union Territories are covered under the NHM, except the eight North Eastern States including Sikkim and the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal, which are covered under another Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North -Eastern States including Sikkim" (TMNE).

(d) and (e) The State of Himachal Pradesh has been covered under the TMNE since 2003-04. An outlay of Rs. 80.00 crore has been earmarked for the State of Himachal Pradesh for Tenth Plan for taking up activities for the overall development of horticulture in the State covering Research, Production and Productivity programmes, creation of infrastructures for Post Harvest Management and Marketing and Procession.

(f) Does not arise.

Checking production and sale of sub-standard pesticides

†307. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total consumption of pesticides in the country and the total number of pesticide producing companies in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the companies are providing sub-standard pesticides to the farmers as a result of which farmers suffer the loss from their crops as well as the financial loss;

(c) if so, the number of companies which have no laboratories; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.